

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Docket: L.P. 1825

Applicants : Erich ARMBUSTER et al.  
Serial No. : Unknown (National Stage Based on  
PCT/EP00/00240, Filed on 01/13/2000)  
Filed : July 9, 2001  
Title : PROCESS FOR PREPARING 1-(6-METHYLPYRIDIN-3-YL)-2-[(4-  
(METHYLSULPHONYL)PHENYL]ETHANONE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

**In The Claims:**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121, please substitute for original Claims 3 to 9 the rewritten version of Claims 3 to 9, as amended. The changes made are shown explicitly in the attached "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

3. (Once Amended) Process according to Claim 2, characterized in that the reaction in step a) is carried out at a temperature of from 600°C to 700°C.
4. (Once Amended) Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that the reaction with ozone in step b) is carried out in the presence of a mineral acid at a temperature of from -20°C to 0°C.
5. (Once Amended) Process according to Claim 4, characterized in that the reductive work-up in step b) is carried out with an alkali metal hydrogen sulphite at a temperature of from -20°C to 20°C.